

# The Galleh Manda Road Project

*The Gambia, Africa*



**Project Costs**  
TBD

**Chapter**  
Sacramento Valley  
Professional Chapter

## **Background**

The village of Galleh Manda has a population of 2,500 people, made up predominantly of farmers. Some villagers have other trades including owning shops and tailoring. The villagers rely primarily on farming and trade for sustenance, most living on less than \$1 per day.

The majority of their economic livelihood results from selling their goods and crops in the main city of Georgetown. Galleh Manda connects to the main road via five miles of dilapidated roadway. During the dry season, the road is passable but unsafe and wears down any vehicles that use it. During the rainy season the road is virtually impassable.

The villagers attempted to improve the road on their own by renting machinery from the local forestry department and bringing rocks from the nearby hills to fill the holes. However, their inexperienced attempt to fix the road instead made it worse.

The Gambia is the smallest country in Africa, and was a British colony until 1965. The official language is English.



## **The Need**

The village of Galleh Manda is connected to the main road via a five mile dirt path that floods and becomes impassable during the rainy season. The villagers of Galleh Manda formed a committee called the Village Development Committee (VDC) to address this problem, but their efforts to fix the road only made it worse. With no university programs in the country covering road construction, there is no knowledge of correct techniques. In the rainy season when the roadway becomes unsafe and impassable, the villagers are isolated from access to healthcare, education, markets, transportation and other needed resources. The villagers of Galleh Manda have asked EWB to teach them how to repair and maintain the road using local resources.

## **The EWB-USA Response**

An assessment trip will be conducted in the dry season to evaluate both the conditions of the roadway and the community itself. On this trip, necessary data will be collected to determine the most efficient and sustainable method of constructing the roadway. This will involve taking soil samples, conducting traffic counts, assessing local vehicle types, conducting a safety evaluation, conducting a survey alignment and completing a roadway drainage analysis. The availability of needed resources such as materials, equipment, and manpower will also be assessed.

The EWB team will also evaluate opportunities for community and village development, and will learn about village culture in order to understand how to best collaborate with the community on this project. The assessment trip will further attempt to establish a resource network that will assist the VDC in constructing and maintaining the road after the EWB team has left.

After the assessment trip is complete, the project team will return to the U.S. and develop a strategy based on the data collected. The EWB team will work closely with the villagers to develop a sustainable and effective solution. Once a plan has been agreed upon, the project team will help the community locate resources, including both raw materials and human resources, and secure funding in order to implement the improvements. Once the research and planning is complete, the EWB team will return to Galleh Manda to work with the community to implement the project.

The ultimate goal of the project is to provide the community of Galleh Manda the ability to repair the road as well as the knowledge to maintain the road themselves once the EWB team has left. EWB goals also include addressing any other development needs that are identified in the community as a whole.

Fundraising is the number one objective needed to ensure this project is seen through completion.

Engineers Without Borders™-USA (EWB-USA) is a non-profit organization established in 2000 to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life.  
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